Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 24 Sept. —, 1886.

Sir,

I regret that I have to complain of the Granulated Charcoal, with which we cover the melted Silver during casting, in order to ward off oxidation of the metal, and prevent the latter from lumping or slabbering on the Pouring Cup. It does not ~~do so~~ prevent this, but the cup becomes clogged with a weight of metal, and this metal by segregation is liable to present different degrees of fineness, to the injury of the metal poured out, i.e. the Ingot.

The present granulated charcoal is much too coarse for our use, rendering particles of it liable to adhere to the Ingot, and make depressions or holes, that unfit it for rolling. I estimate it to be 5 or 6 times as coarse as the Charcoal we formerly used so satisfactorily and to that ex-

it is
tent highly objectionable for our object.
Moreover the coal now using is made from a light and comparatively worthless charcoal. The following were the weights of the two kinds, viz. that formerly used, and that now in use.

One measure of the Old coal weighed 8.7 oz.
—do— " —new " 7.1 "
Difference in weight. 1.6 "

No price will compensate the evil results of using the new coal compared with Old coal, and I recommend for the Interests of the Government that we return to the use of the Old Charcoal or a Charcoal of equally good weight and size. By using the present charcoal (granulated) we are risking the loss of Dollars by the Government for the saving of Cents, in addition to the greater waste of the light charcoal.

(Hon. D. M. Fox,
Superintendent.

Very respectfully,
Ja^s C Booth
M & R

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 141

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Melting and Refining Department,
Philadelphia,
September 24, 1886

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Very respectfully,
Jas. C. Booth
M & R

Hon. D.M. Fox,
Superintendent.